

STATEWIDE RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA)
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALL NOTES

August 5, 2020

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: Conference Call

1-866-801-9605 (Participant Code: 92183013#)

Updates

- Conversion: Counties are encouraged to continue converting existing homes to RFA. The deadline to initiate the conversion process for licensed foster homes, certified foster family homes, and families approved under the relative approval process remains 12/31/2020. The submission of the conversion application [RFA 00A](#) on or before 12/31/20 is considered sufficient for compliance purposes.
- Assembly Bill (AB) 79: Two significant RFA programmatic changes, effective July 1, 2020:
 - Annual Update requirement ([Written Directives](#) (WD), section 9-02) changed to a biennial, meaning every other year. For a family with an annual update due on or after July 1, 2020, it may be deferred for up to one year. For an approved Resource Family whose annual update was due on or before June 30, 2020, the update is still required. No changes to other types of updates, for example, portability, relocation, significant change, etc.
 - Annual review of county RFA program changed from yearly to biennial frequency. RFA statute permits the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct the review more frequently if determined necessary ([Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) 16519.5\(f\)\(6\)\(B\)](#)).

Information regarding these programmatic changes will be incorporated in the next version of the WDs.

- RFA-Associated COVID-19 Waivers/Flexibilities: [All County Letter \(ACL\) 20-86](#) was recently published and contains updated/revised guidance regarding the extension or expiration of RFA-specific waivers and flexibilities detailed in [ACL 20-43](#). [ACL 20-91](#) provides information regarding the extension of limited exceptions to the in-person requirements related to the complaint investigation process of an approved Resource Family.
- Live Scan Requirements for Emergency Placements: The flexibility around live scan requirements for emergency placements expired August 4, 2020, meaning that any emergency placements occurring today or thereafter must adhere to the livescan requirements in place pre-COVID-19. Refer to the chart attached to [ACL 20-86](#) for delay parameters associated to specific time

frames associated to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders. The Department of Justice (DOJ) continues to publish updated information of open and mobile livescan vendors (by county) which can be found [here](#).

County TA Question	CDSS Response	Action Item
1) When are the next version of the WDs being released?	A draft of the new WDs will be distributed shortly for stakeholder feedback, with an anticipated September release for Version 7	
2) What happens to approvals granted under the pre-approval training waiver if the Resource Family (RF) does not complete the pre-approval hours on or before the expiration date?	<p>Counties are strongly encouraged to support and facilitate families in completing pre-approval training hour requirements by providing alternative modes of curriculum delivery and facilitating access to the family with these alternative learning opportunities.</p> <p>If the family, after efforts by the county to assist completion, fails to satisfy the requirement the County may initiate next steps to bring the family into compliance and/or consider administrative action.</p>	
3) Is there funding available to support RFs with childcare and/or distance learning?	If your county opted in, information regarding childcare resources offered through the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program) is linked here . Additionally, CDSS's Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) administers a grant for locally-based Family Resource Centers (FRC) that provide supports to parents, referral services and information to children and families all over California. You can find the link for more information regarding FRCs here .	
4) How should we approach the background check requirement when biological parent(s) are regularly present in the RF home because of reunification plans/orders?	Presently, WDs, section 6-03A(a) specifies that all adults residing or regularly present in the home of an applicant or approved RF are subject to the RFA Background Check process. In the next version of the WDs, we anticipate the inclusion of updated guidance in respect to background checks for biological parents participating in reunification efforts.	
5) Is it ok to accept CPR/First Aid certificates in which the training was completed on-line or virtually?	Yes, the WDs do not require that CPR/First Aid training is obtained in any prescribed format. Many on-line CPR/First Aid vendors can be found by googling.	
6) How are counties documenting that a RF has signed the Written Report (WR) or other documents that require the family's signature?	Counties shared a variety of methods. For example, having the family submitting a picture of the document showing their signature or using the certified or registered mail proof of receipt and retaining the picture or receipt in the RF file as documentation of the signature and/or receipt.	

7) Is CDSS planning on providing additional RFA Background Check training?	At this time, there are no plans to conduct additional RFA Background Check trainings. However, CDSS may consider offering focused trainings if County RFA management identify specific areas of the background check process that need strengthening. These may be submitted to the Foster Caregiver Policy and Support Unit mailbox, Kinship@dss.ca.gov .	
8) Where can I find information on the Family Evaluation trainings that were being offered prior to the COVID-19 emergency?	The trainings are scheduled to start back up in Fall 2020. When the trainings are finalized, information will be posted here .	

Next Call: October 7, 2020 at 1:30 pm.